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Photo of a Top-Secret Document Seen in Foreign Service Periodical

By **CLYDE H. FARNSWORTH**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 4 — A picture on the cover of the current issue of The Foreign Service Journal shows a readable copy of one of the Government's most sensitive intelligence documents, according to Government officials.

The Foreign Service Journal, published for members of the Foreign Service, is generally available to the public and has a circulation of 10,000.

The document, a copy of the National Intelligence Daily, which is produced by the Central Intelligence Agency in traceable, numbered copies exclusively for the President and a small circle of others with top-secret clearance, was photographed on the desk of Ronald I. Spiers, the Under Secretary of State for Management. Mr. Spiers was the subject of the article referred to on the magazine's cover.

The C.I.A. intelligence summary, which reports the latest intelligence evaluations by the agency, was open to two pages, apparently about the situation in Lebanon.

Numerals Clearly Visible

A map of Lebanon was partly blocked by Mr. Spiers's left hand. He had some hand-written notes partly shielding the print on the facing page, but clearly visible at the bottom of the page was the number 121.

Some text as well as codes, also at the bottom of the page, were not legible with normal magnifying equipment, but a Congressional aide with a background in intelligence said, "Based on my time in the business, this is the kind of thing you could blow up and clarify what the final thing is with not even very sophisticated equipment."

The aide continued, "This is a major breach of security."

An aide to Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, the ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "Anybody else in the Government who did this would have been fired if this had happened to them."

Mr. Spiers did not return telephone calls Wednesday. A State Department press officer, Bruce Ammerman, said, "The State Department has no comment at this time."

Government officials reported that the State Department had sent an agent to the office of Stephen R. Dujack, editor of the Foreign Service Journal, who also took the picture.

Photographer Still Has Slides

The agent asked Mr. Dujack whether he would consider giving up the slides. Mr. Dujack, according to a Government official, responded that he would refer the matter to counsel but that he doubted he would accede, citing freedom of the press guaranteed under the First Amendment.

Mr. Dujack still has the slides, a Government official said. Reached at home tonight, Mr. Dujack refused to comment.

The Foreign Service Journal is not an official Government publication. It is published by the American Foreign Service Association, a labor union and professional association for foreign service employees at the State Department.

Mr. Spiers is responsible for organizing the personnel and financial resources needed to conduct foreign policy.

Photographs of the National Intelligence Daily have appeared at rare times in the past in the general press but never so clearly, according to intelligence officials.

In the interview with the Foreign Service Journal, Mr. Spiers criticized Congressional staff members for trying to manage the State Department closely.

"Too much authority is sucked upwards, there are too many seventh-floor people, and the seventh-floor staffs are too big," he said. The Secretary of State and other top officials in the agency occupy offices on the seventh floor.